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MINUTES
OF THE
Thirty-second Annual Meeting,
OF THE
PEARL RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH
MAGEE'S CREEK CHURCH, PIKE Co., MISS.,

September the 13th, 14th, 15th, 1851.

MAGEE'S CREEK CHURCH, PIKE COUNTY, MISS.
September the 13th, 1851.

The Pearl River Baptist Association met this day with Magee's Creek Church, pursuant to previous adjournment.

1st. At 11 o'clock the Rev. Calvin Magee, agreeable to appointment, preached the introductory Sermon from Isaiah, 9th chap., and first part of the 6th verse: "For unto us a child is born—unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder."

2d. After a short intermission the Association was called to order by the Moderator, Rev. Jesse Crawford. Prayer was offered at a Throne of Grace by the Rev. Z. Reeves.

3d. The clerk being absent, Nicholas Finley was appointed clerk *pro tem*. Brethren Norvel Robertson, Jr., and Wm. Barnes were appointed reading clerks; and Brethren Samuel B. Mullen, Simeon Ross, and Reddick Sojourner, receivers of contributions.

4th. The letters from the Churches having been called for, were presented and read, and the names of the delegates enrolled.

The letters read represented the state of the Churches to be as shown by the following table:

STATISTICAL TABLE OF THE CHURCHES.

CHURCHES.	DELEGATES.	COUNTIES.	POST OFFICES.	Baptized.	Received by letter.	Restored by letter.	Dismissed by letter.	Excluded.	Dead.	CHURCH MEMBERS		No. copies.	Association fund.	Missionary fund.
										White.	Black.			
Antioch,.....	H. Davis, J. S. Pitman,.....	Marion,...	China Grove,...	2	2			1	1	37	42	79	\$8 00	
Bethany,.....	James Mikell, H. Hooker,.....	Lawrence,...	Monticello,...	3			2	1	1	18		87	8 00	
Bahala,.....	I. Hockett,.....	"	Bahala,.....									18	5 00	\$5 00
Bethlehem,.....		Suppison,...	Westville,.....	5										
Copiah,.....	Nicholas Finley,.....	Copiah,...	Georgetown,...	2			2	1		50	10	60	6 20	
Ebenezer,.....	J. Bass, E. Bass,.....	Covington,...	Wilkesburg,...	1			1	3		25	2	27	4 00	
Fair River,.....	Thompson Wallace, Jas. Coker,.....	Lawrence,...	Monticello,...	7			1	5	3	49	6	55	30 00	10 00
Galilee,.....	G. H. Barrett, Alex. Miller,.....	Copiah,...	Georgetown,...	1					1	18	2	20	3 00	
Hebron,.....	E. Owens, Wm. Harrison,.....	Lawrence,...	Mount Carmel,...	2			4			40	16	56	5 00	6 50
Hephzibah,.....	W. FORTENBERRY, A. A. Shepherd,.....	"	Monticello,...	2			1		1			40	5 00	3 00
Harmony,.....	Wm. Williams, N. W. Lee,.....	"	Mount Carmel,...	3			3	1	3	32	7	39	5 00	3 25
Hopewell,.....	R. Sojourner,.....	Copiah,...	Sandifer's,.....	2			1	4	1	29	6	35	6 00	9 90
Little River,.....		Marion,...	Columbia,.....	1										
Mount Zion,.....	John Norwood, J. P. Norwood,.....	Simpson,...	China Grove,...	1			9	1	38	24	62	20	6 00	
Magee's Creek,.....	H. SIMMONS, T. GIBSON,.....	Pike,.....	Mount Zion,...	1			5	1	47	4	51	30	6 00	7 5 00
Mountain Creek,.....		Rankin,...	Brandon,.....				3	1	21	1	22	20	4 00	2 00
Macedonia,.....	JOSEPH CHANDLER,.....	Simpson,...	Westville,.....	1			3	2	2			39	4 00	
New Chapel,.....	J. A. Boutwell, B. Williams,.....	Pike,.....	Monticello,...	1			2	1	12	2	14	10	3 00	
New Zion,.....	Daniel Smith, J. Lewis,.....	Marion,...	Connerley's,...	11			5	12	1			70	7 00	
New Hope,.....	J. W. Hornsby,.....	Covington,...	Williamsburg,...									34	5 00	10 00
New Zion,.....	John Guines, J. J. Prewett,.....	Simpson,...	Westville,.....	22			2	1	51	1	52	30	6 00	
Palestine,.....	E. Barron,.....	"	Sandifer's,...	17			1	1				85	40	1 25
Pleasant Hill,.....	Blackman Bridges,.....	"	Westville,.....	4			4			15	2	17	3 00	
Silver Creek,.....	Jesse Crawford, W. Elisey,.....	Pike,.....	Homesville,...	7			5	1	3	65	26	91	50	10 85
Silver Creek,.....	S. Ross, Thomas Price,.....	Lawrence,...	Monticello,...	3					35	1	39	25	5 00	
Strong River,.....	T. M. Young, David Bishop,.....	Simpson,...	Westville,.....	9			1		39	10	49	20	5 00	
Society Hill,.....	M. M. Fortenberry, John Gay,.....	Lawrence,...	Monticello,...	1										
Sardin,.....	S. B. MULLEN, S. Ashley,.....	Copiah,...	Gallatin,.....	3			1	1	1	30	19	49	5 00	4 50
Shiloh,.....	J. B. Carlisle, M. Parkman,.....	Lawrence,...	Monticello,...	1								43	20	5 00
Union,.....	J. J. Sandifer, D. Broomfield,.....	Pike,.....	Connerley's,...	29			4		19	4	23	15	4 00	
Zion Hill,.....	John Chandler,.....	Rankin,...	Brandon,.....	1					69	1	70	65	7 00	
Dry Creek,.....		"	Steen's Creek,...	1			1					22	15	3 00

NOTE.—Qualities whose names are printed in italics, are Ordained Ministers. Those printed in italics, are Adjutants.

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The Moderator appointed Wm. Fortenberry, Wm. Williams, S. B. Mullen, a Committee of arrangements, and on motion, the Moderator and clerk were added to said committee.

Brother Jno. S. Pitman was granted leave of absence from the Association.

On motion, adjourned to meet on Monday morning at 9 o'clock. Prayer by Rev. Norvel Robertson, Jr.

SABBATH EXERCISES.

The exercises of the morning were opened by Rev. Z. Reeves, who preached to a large and attentive audience.

At 11 o'clock, Rev. Wm. Fortenberry preached a missionary sermon, at the close of which, a public collection was taken up as follows:

For Indian Missionary purposes, - - - - - 19 75

For Domestic Missionary purposes, - - - - - 17 45

After a short recess the congregation again seated themselves around the stand, and were addressed by Rev. N. Robertson, Jr., and the exercises were closed by an appropriate exhortation and prayer, by Rev. Shadrack Coker.

MONDAY MORNING, 9 o'clock, Sept. 15, 1851.

The Association met agreeable to adjournment, and sang a hymn of praise, and Rev. C. Magee led in prayer.

The Committee of arrangements presented their report, which was received and adopted.

The roll was then called and absentees marked.

The rules of decorum were then read.

Invited visiting Ministering Brethren to seats with us.

On motion, *Resolved*, That Brethren Thompson Wallace and James Coker be excused for absenting themselves on account of sickness.

The Committee on preaching reported as follows: the Rev. L. E. Wall, S. Coker, Norvel Robertson and Z. Reeves, preach to-day in the order of their names.

Called for queries.

A query was presented from Harmony church, which was taken up by the Association, and on motion was laid on the table.

Appointed R. Sojourner, Thos. Gibson, and S. Ross, a Committee on Finance.

Called for correspondence from sister Associations.

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On motion, *Resolved*, that Rev. Norvel Robertson be received as a messenger from the Baptist State Convention.

Corresponding letters were called for—read and received.

Reports called for; when the Treasurer made the following Report:

SIMEON ROSS, TREASURER, *in account with the Pearl River Association, 1851.*

Received at last Association for associational purposes, \$172 95

Dr.

Cr.

By cash paid out, to Parson A. McKenzie, \$2 00

Amount due from Pearl River Association for printing

the Minutes of a convention held in '49, in Copiah

county, to Brother Frink, clerk, for printing and

distributing the Minutes. - - - - - 55 00

To F. J. Larkin, - - - - - 22 00

Paid a balance due the Treasury, - - - - - 5 33

\$84 33

Balance in the Treasury, - - - - - \$88 62

Received for Missionary purposes, - - - - - \$100 50

Old balance on hand - - - - - 31 53

Total - - - - - \$132 03

To Brother Crawford, our Missionary last year, 21 00

Leaving in the Treasury for Missionary purposes, \$111 03

The Report was received and ordered to be printed in the minutes.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the messengers from this Association to her Corresponding Sisters be required to make reports.

Called for petitions.

Agreed to hold our next annual meeting with Bethany Church, Lawrence county, Miss., commencing on Saturday before the second Sabbath in September, A. D. 1852.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the clerk be required to superintend the printing, and distributing of these minutes through mail, and that he draw on the Treasurer for the amount of expenses for publishing and distributipg; also that he be allowed fifteen dollars for his services.

APPOINTMENTS

Rev. Wm. Williams appointed to preach the next introductory sermon, and Rev. Jesse Crawford his alternate.

On motion, *Resolved*, That in the place of our annual circular, we have published in these minutes the Articles of Faith of this Association, with an alteration in the fifth article, to the word "man," which should be "men:" also the Rules of Decorum and powers of the Association.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the case of Little River Church be taken under consideration, and her absence from this body enquired into, &c. The Moderator appointed Rev. Wm. Williams, H. Simmons, and T. Gibson, a Committee to visit said Little River Church, and labor with her.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the following be adopted as the order of business of this Association hereafter:

- 1st. Elect officers.
- 2d. Invite visiting Ministers to seats.
- 3d. Give opportunity for reception of other churches.
- 4th. Appoint a committee on preaching.
- 5th. Receive correspondence from other bodies.
- 6th. Arrange correspondence.
- 7th. Appoint Committees.
- 8th. Call for queries.
- 9th. Make appointments.
- 10th. Attend to petitions.
- 11th. Miscellaneous business.
- 12th. Missionary business.
- 13th. Call for reports.
- 14th. Make appointments.

The Association then took up Missionary business, when the following report was read and received:

We, the Missionary Board of the Pearl River Association, beg leave to report, That, in April last we came into convention with the Union Church, Pike county, and on motion, Brother Hosea Davis was chosen President, and Brother Thos. Gibson, Secretary. As there was no business presented, upon which to act, the board adjourned to meet with the New Zion Church, on Saturday before the first Sabbath in May, at which time, your Missionary tendered a letter of resignation of his appointment; and as there was no

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Board to act, at that time, an effort was made to form a Board at the above named Church, on Saturday before the second Sabbath in June, and having again failed, we agreed to convene on Saturday of the Association. From the repeated failures, or disappointments, to meet, from our first adjournment, nothing efficient has been done.

HOSEA DAVIS, *President.*

SAMUEL B. MULLEN, *Secretary.*

The Moderator appointed as an Executive Missionary Board, the following Brethren: Jas. Mikelt, M. M. Fortenberry, Wm. Barnes, N. W. Lee, F. M. Polk, T. Price, E. Owen, H. Hooker, Geo. Burkett, J. Bass, William Williams, and C. M. J. Stringer.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the Association appoint a Missionary Preacher for the ensuing year, which terminated in the appointment of Rev. Jesse Crawford.

Agreed that Rev. Jesse Crawford choose a colleague to ride with him; whereupon Rev. C. Magee was chosen.

On motion, it was *Resolved*, That the Missionaries of this Association be required to confine their labors to the destitute country between Leaf and Pearl Rivers.

On motion for adjournment the minutes were read, corrected and received, after which, the Moderator addressed the Association very feelingly in a few appropriate remarks. The association then sung a hymn, and gave each other the parting hand. Rev. Wm. Williams led in prayer.

The Association then adjourned to meet with Bethany Church, Lawrence county, Mississippi, on Saturday before the second Lord's day in September, 1852

JESSE CRAWFORD, *Moderator.*

N. FINLEY, *Clerk.*

ARTICLES OF FAITH

OF THE

PEARL RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

1st. We believe in one Triune God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, the same in essence, equal in power and glory.

2d. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament were given by the inspiration of God, and are the only rules of faith and practice.

3d. We believe in the fall of Adam from his original rectitude, in the imputation of his sin, to all his posterity; in the total depravity of human nature, and in man's inability to restore himself to the favor of God.

4th. We believe that God hath loved his people with an everlasting love; that he chose them in Christ before the foundation of the world; that he calleth them with a holy and effectual calling; and being justified alone through the righteousness of Christ imputed to them, they are kept, by the power of God, through faith, into Salvation.

5th. We believe there is one Mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus; who, by the satisfaction he made to law and justice in becoming an offering for sin, hath, by his most precious blood, redeemed the elect from under the curse of the law, that they might be holy and without blame before him in love.

6th. We believe that good works are the fruits of faith, and follow after justification, and are evidences of a gracious state, and that all believers are bound to obey every command of God from a principle of love.

7th. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and a general judgment; that the happiness of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting.

1st. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and to one and the same discipline, agreeable to the will of God.

2d. We believe in the giving of his Church, and in the observance thereof.

3d. We believe in the observance of the ordinances appointed by the Church of Christ.

4th. We believe in the fellowship of believers in Christ.

5th. We believe that all members have a right to the communion.

6th. We believe that it is the duty of every member to make a public confession of the gospel before the Church.

7th. We believe that the Church holds doctrines which are essential to the salvation of the soul.

OBJECTS

1st. This Association has for its object an independent control its own power to in Churches composed of members which may hold different views.

2d. The object is to promote fellowship and harmony between the Churches, and to be solicited, and in any way they may be able to promote the same.

3d. With reference to the communion we declare it to be the duty of every member to make a public confession of the gospel before the Church.

ON GOSPEL ORDER.

1st. We believe that a visible Church of Christ is a congregation of faithful persons, who have given themselves to the Lord, and to one another in brotherly covenant to keep up a godly discipline, agreeable to the rules of the New Testament.

2d. We believe that Jesus Christ is the only Head and Law-giver of his Church ; that the government is with the body, the Church, and is equally the right and the privilege of each member thereof.

3d. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are gospel ordinances appointed by Jesus Christ, and are to be continued in the Church until his second coming.

4th. We believe that Immersion only is Baptism, and that believers in Christ are the only proper subjects.

5th. We believe that none but regularly baptised Church members have a right to partake of the Lord's Supper.

6th. We believe that it is the duty and privilege of all believers to make a public profession of their faith, to submit to the ordinances of the gospel, and give themselves as members to the visible Church.

7th. We believe it to be the duty of every Church to expel from her communion every member that is immoral in conduct, or that holds doctrines contrary to the Scriptures.

 OBJECTS AND POWERS OF THIS ASSOCIATION.

1st. This Association acknowledges and maintains that each is an independent body, and possesses the sole right to exercise and control its own affairs, and therefore, this Association has no right or power to interfere with the internal rights and privileges of Churches composing its body, but may withdraw from any Church which may hold false doctrines, or tolerate immoral practices.

2d. The objects of this Association shall be to promote fellowship and harmony among the Churches ; to inquire into any difficulties between Churches, and remove them if possible ; to give the Churches the best advice they can in difficult matters, when solicited, and in general, to advance the Redeemer's kingdom, in any way they may deem it practicable.

3d. With regard to the benevolent institutions in our country, we declare it to be the inalienable right of every Association, of

every Church, or individual member of a Church, to support them, or not support them, according to their own views of duty, and dictates of their own conscience; and this right shall never be called in question in this Association. And any motion, whereby this right is called in question, shall be instantly ruled out by the Moderator, as being unconstitutional.

4th. This Association may maintain a friendly correspondence, when convenient, with other religious bodies of the same faith and order.

5th. Ministers of the gospel in good standing, though not delegates, may be invited to seats in this Association, but not to have the privilege of voting.

6th. The Association may appoint any person, or persons, by and with their consent, to transact any business they may deem necessary.

7th. The Association may adjourn to any time and place they think proper.

8th. The Association shall keep a record of their proceedings, and have them printed when necessary:

9th. The Association shall have a fund, and elect annually a Treasurer to take charge of it, who shall account to the Association for all money which shall come into his hands for the use of this Association.

10th. The Association may form their own by-laws and regulate their own proceedings, in such manner as they may think expedient.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1st. This Association shall consist of delegates chosen by the Churches to which they respectively belong, and shall be styled, "The Pearl River Baptist Association."

2d. Such delegates shall be members in good standing, and no member under church censure shall be allowed a seat in the Association.

3d. They shall produce letters certifying their appointment by their respective Churches, and stating the number received, received by letter, restored, dismissed, excommunicated, deceased, during the preceding Associational year, with the total number in fellowship, and such other statistical matters at the Association may direct.

4th. This Association shall have a Moderator and Clerk who shall be annually chosen by a majority of the members present.— Said Moderator and Clerk shall fill their respective places if present at the succeeding Association, till a new election takes place, and while in office, shall discharge the duties ordinarily appertaining to those offices.

5th. If new Churches desire to be admitted into the Association, they shall petition by letter and delegates, and if orthodox and orderly, shall be received, and the Moderator shall recognize them by giving their delegates the right hand of fellowship in behalf of the body.

6th. Every Church shall be allowed two delegates, and no more, until her number shall reach one hundred, and one delegate for every additional fifty members thereafter, until she may have four delegates and no more.

7th. The Association shall neither answer nor debate any query on gospel doctrine, except it be merely to explain the meaning of the Articles of Faith of this Association.

8th. Every motion made in order and seconded, shall be reduced to writing, if requested by any member, and shall be considered by the Association, unless withdrawn by the mover before discussion.

9th. Motions made and lost shall not be recorded on the minutes, unless so ordered at the time.

10th. If any proposition or motion under debate contains two or more points, it shall be divided at the request of any member, and the vote taken on each point separately.

11th. Only one member shall speak at the same time, who shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator; he shall confine himself to the subject properly in debate; cast no reflections on the Association, or any member thereof, and shall not be interrupted while speaking.

12th. No person shall speak more than three times upon the same subject without leave of the Association.

13th. The Moderator shall have the privilege of speaking on any question in debate; the Chair being previously filled. He shall rise from his seat to put the question to the body.

14th. The Moderator shall decide questions of order, but an appeal from such decision may be taken to the whole body, which shall be decided without debate.

15th. A majority of the members present shall be necessary to carry any proposition or motion, and the Moderator shall vote as other members when the question is taken; and in case of a tie the question shall again be put to the Association, and if not then decided, the Moderator shall proceed to decide the matter in controversy by lot.

16th. Committees shall be nominated by the Moderator, subject to the approval of the Association.

17th. There shall be no talking or whispering while a brother is speaking.

18th. No brother shall finally depart from the Association without leave of the body.

19th. The names of the delegates shall be enrolled by the clerk, and called over, whenever it is thought necessary.

20th. Minutes shall be read and carefully corrected, if necessary, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the Association rises.

21st. A motion for final adjournment shall be construed to embrace the previous reading and adoption of the minutes.

22d. The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.

23d. Immediately after the organization of the Association the Rules of Order shall be distinctly read, by order from the Moderator.

24th. The foregoing articles shall be subject to alteration or amendment, at any regular meeting of the Association, by a majority of the Association.

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